

# VISN 2 Database Integration

## A B S T R A C T

Purpose: To outline VISN 2's plan and purpose for the Veteran's Information Systems Technological Architecture (VISTA) database integration.

Access to data and sharing of best information practices are the goals of VISN 2's integration of its five medical center databases. The process includes 3 phases with the final two databases integrating into the primary database by July 2000.

Preparation of the files has required discussion, extensive review, and collaboration of all five systems. Subject matter experts, Application Coordinators and Computer Specialists have complemented the 30+ VISN represented workgroups. Two phases of the integration have been completed with benefits already being realized.

For example common patient data is accessible between VISN sites. Community based outpatient Providers can easily consult to the patient's choice of VA referral centers. Standardization and sharing of documentation tools is facilitating compliance with review bodies. Administrative efficiencies have been realized through vendor pools, network licensing, and sharing of Computer Specialist resources.

One common database for five medical centers seeking common healthcare goals is proving successful within VISN 2. Ease in accessing data and standardization of practice is occurring due to the VISTA database integration.



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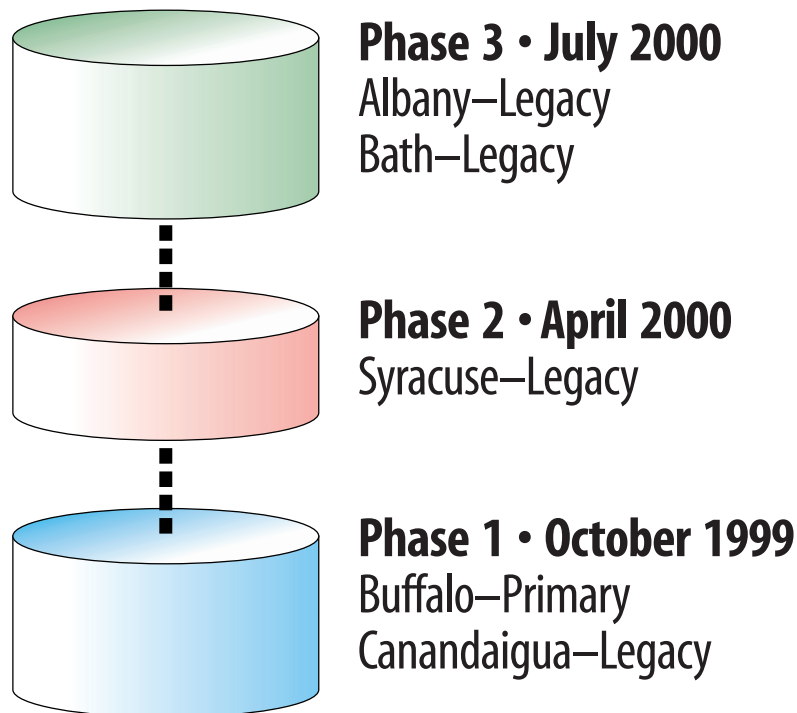
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# **1 Business Drivers**

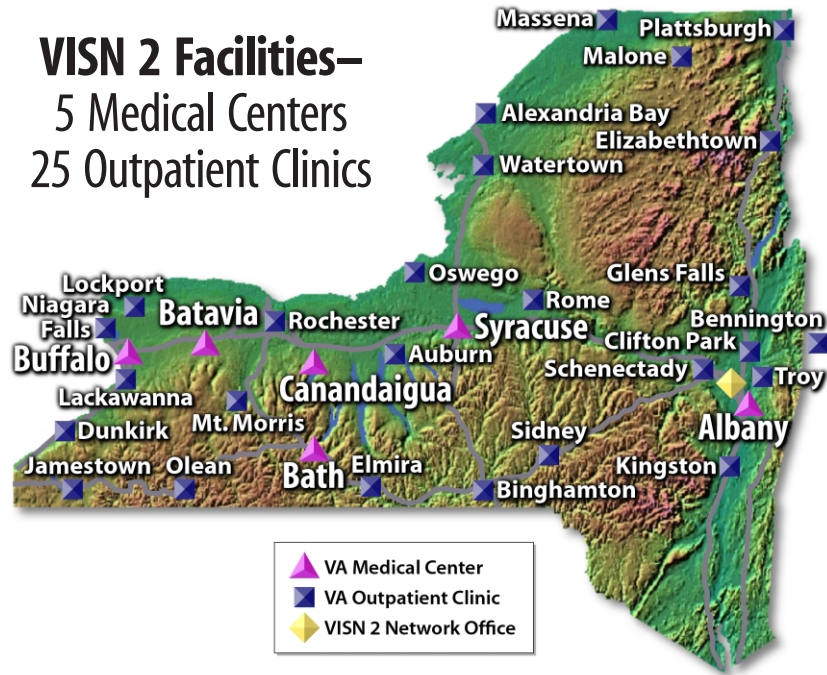
- VISN 2 Healthcare Delivery Processes
- Care and Service Lines Management
- Computerized Patient Medical Record
- Rapid Process Changes using Network Centric Models  
(Clinical Reminders, Encounter Forms, Military History, Network Authorization Office, MCCF, DSS)

## **Timeline**



## 2 About VISN 2

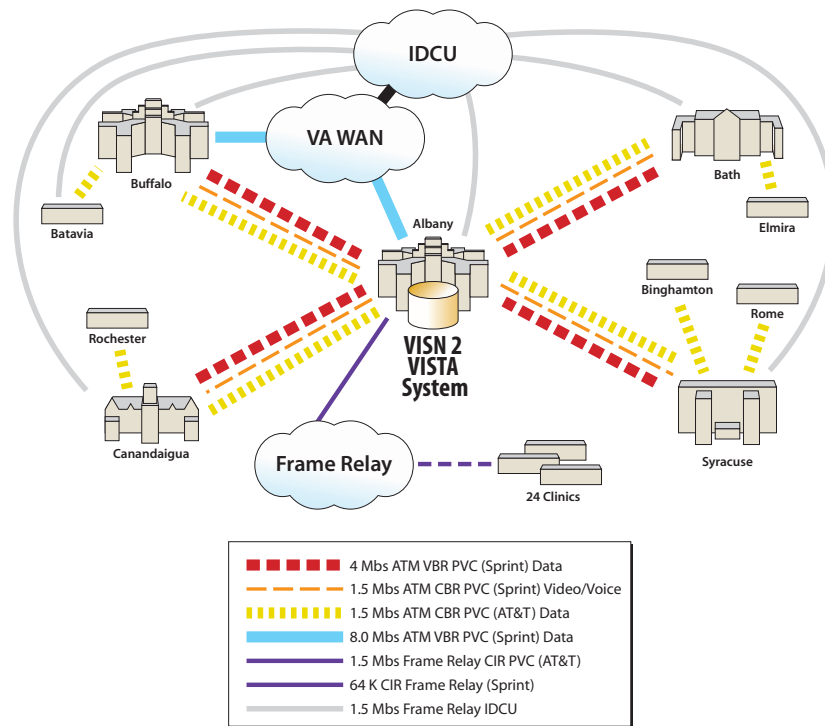
**VISN 2 Facilities—**  
5 Medical Centers  
25 Outpatient Clinics



## Patient Distribution

	Albany	Bath	Buffalo	C'daigua	Syracuse
Albany		105	159	106	579
Bath	105		1,525	561	580
Buffalo	159	1,525		2,075	996
Canandaigua	106	561	2,075		2,181
Syracuse	579	580	996	2,181	
Total Shared	949	2,771	4,755	4,923	4,336
Unique Shared	821	2,235	3,852	4,012	3,484
Total Patients Seen	29,836	10,473	28,768	11,775	32,347
Percent of Patients Seen Elsewhere	2.75%	21.34%	13.39%	34.07%	10.77%

# 3 VISN 2 Area Network



## Infrastructure

- VISN VISTA System located in Albany
- Failsafe VISTA Environment
- Disaster VISTA System located in Buffalo
- VISN Area Network
- Redundant VISN Area Network
- Connectivity to National VA WAN
- VISTA System Managers (4)
- VISN WAN Managers (6)

## **4** **Benefits**

- Availability of Patient and Administrative data VISN-wide
- Information which supports Continuity of Care for Veterans
- Identification and use of Best Practices
- Database which supports Data Analysis at the VISN level
- Standardization of Business and Information Practices
- Optimization of Resources

## **Challenges**

- Standardization of Business Processes
- Identification, Acceptance and Implementation of Best Practices
- VISTA Software multidivisional functionality
- Information Technology Resources (Staffing and Skill Sets, Systems and Network Infrastructure, Redundancy and Contingency Plans)
- Continued Organizational needs